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SHOEING A MULE AT GREYTOWN, NATAL

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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The North Pole—and Five Others

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Derrick Point, showing the method employed by the Shackleton South Polar Expedition, of hauling stores up a cliff. This expedition reached a point within 110 miles of the South Geographic Pole and attained the South Magnetic Pole.

THE EARTH has at least six well-known poles, in three groups of twins, only one of which, the North Pole, would be crossed by *The Shenandoah* or *The Los Angeles* in blazing a trail across the Arctic. The others of the polar family are the "poles of cold," the South Pole, and the North and South Magnetic Poles.

The most-talked-of member of the family is the North Pole. Enthroned at the top of the earth where latitude becomes 90 degrees and the meridians of longitude converge, it has received only one visit in all time. Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, with his retinue of Eskimo attendants, spent a few hours in its frigid presence and took notes on its refrigerating system.

Nature's Remote Refrigerator

Scientists tell us that this refrigerating plant, installed and operated solely by Nature, never fails to register below the freezing point of fresh water even during July, and that its mean temperature in winter is about that of some of the Montana cold snaps.

Even Old Sol, when he returns to the North, has been unsuccessful in breaking up the plant, though (at the summer solstice) he pours out larger amounts of his rays there than at any other part of the earth's surface except at the corresponding point in the South. If he didn't have to keep moving he soon would make the Arctic ice-cap the hottest region on the earth's surface, but he only succeeds in melting some of the surface ice. In honor, or defiance, of his visit, daylight lasts for six months, but humidity, cloudiness and precipitation mar the beauty of his rays on the crystals of the snow palace.

When he leaves and night sets in, fantastic lighting effects, which shame those of New York's Great White Way, are brought into play. The northern part of the sky is illuminated by an arch of whitish, greenish, or rosy light from

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NATIVE INDUSTRIES NEAR DURBAN, NATAL (see Bulletin No. 5)

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Auch: A Capital of Courage

AUCH is erecting a statue to its most famous countryman, D'Artagnan. A swashbuckling statue it will be with plumed hat, rapier at belt, and boots like bold Puss wore in the fairy story. Thus Auch will have such a courageous figure as Champlain's on Dufferin Terrace, Quebec, or Chevalier Maisonneuve's, before Notre Dame in Montreal.

Auch is capital of Gascony—capital of courage, too. For that variety of courage known as dashing, Gascony has grown so famous that it imbeds itself in our language with the word "gasconade." The statue to D'Artagnan, as a memorial to Gascony's greatest quality, is in part a tribute to those other noted sons of the southern French province, Cyrano de Bergerac, and Marshals Joffre and Foch.

Is Elusive on Maps

Although every French schoolboy knows where Gascony is, just as an American schoolboy knows where America's South is, Gascony, like our South, seldom appears as a map label.

This is for the best. A land of courage should not be marked off with boundary posts. Like the Kingdom of King Arthur, Gascony never knew the surveyor's rod. When southern France finally crystallized into definite political units, Gascony was left to name a point of view instead of a place. As near as anyone would wish to fix it, Gascony includes the "departments" of Gers and parts of Hautes-Pyrenees, Haute-Garonne, Landes and Lot-et-Garonne.

French departments are not so important as American States, but they are more important than American counties. Auch is the "county seat" of Gers, but is also, despite its scanty population, the residence of the archbishop whose territory is much larger than Gers. The archbishopric coincides more nearly with the romantically indefinite borders of old Gascony, midway between the Atlantic and Mediterranean. Upon the archbishopric rests Auch's claim as capital of Gascony.

D'Artagnan, as everyone knows, was Captain-Lieutenant of the King's Musketeers. Dumas wove his adventures with a warp of actual facts from a story by a comparative unknown, Courtilz de Sandras. This writer compiled the biography of a Count of Artagnan, scion of house of Fezensac, born near Aignan, not more than 15 miles from Auch. Cyrano de Bergerac, another Captain of the Guards and hero of Edmond Rostand's play, was also a flesh and blood gallant. The town of Bergerac still grows sun-sweetened grapes beside the Dordogne.

Provinces Breed Varying Human Types

Provinces in France are noted for the special quality of manhood and womanhood they feed into Paris. Celtic Brittany is famed for the depth of its religious thought, Renan and many religious writers coming from its soil.

UMI

which streamers of white or colored light go trailing across the heavens. This effect is called the aurora borealis.

Though the North Pole can never leave its kingdom and has been rigidly bound down by Nature, it does manage to shift about in a circle about 50 feet in diameter. This restlessness causes a corresponding variability in terrestrial latitudes.

Had Only One Visit Since History Began

When Admiral Peary stood on the top point of the earth, he was actually being turned around only once in 24 hours with the rotation of the earth. As he simply lingered for a few hours he made only a small part of a revolution—at a pace which is not conducive to dizziness. A man in the city of Quito, Ecuador, on the Equator, during that same time, was being whirled along through an immense arc at the rate of about 1,000 miles an hour.

The other monarch of the world's ice lands is the South Pole, twin of the North Pole.

Though there is all the distance in the world between them, in the main, the surroundings are duplicated. The arrangement of land and water in their respective spheres of influence is somewhat different; the Southern, a land zone surrounded by a wide belt of open sea, and the Northern, a water body surrounded by continental land masses.

The Southern monarch likes his summers colder; in fact, so cold are the summers and so regular the winds that there is practically no plant life of even the most insignificant kind on the Antarctic Continent. He is also less exclusive than his brother of the North, having received two earthly travelers within his portals—Captain Roald Amundsen and Captain Robert F. Scott, but from the latter he exacted a death penalty.

The North and South Magnetic Poles, located more than a thousand miles from the true North and South Poles toward Hudson Bay and New Zealand, are the elusive members of the polar family. The North Magnetic Pole makes the compass needle stand up straight on its point and the South Magnetic Pole makes it stand on its foot, and they both play tricks with all sorts of metal instruments by magnetizing or demagnetizing their parts.

Why Compass Swerves from North

When John Jones travels through the Northern Wisconsin or Minnesota woods solely with the aid of his compass, he cannot go directly north unless he travels just a little west of the direction in which his compass points, because of its affinity for the North Magnetic Pole. Both of these poles also are wanderers within a prescribed area.

The Poles of Cold are the Ishmaels and Hagars of the polar family—outcasts, both erratic and disagreeable. They reside in the places where the cold is most intense, usually in the interior of a continent. Though the North Pole has the coldest mean annual temperature, there is a desert of ice in the interior of Greenland which is the coldest part of the northern hemisphere in July. Verkhoyansk, in northeastern Siberia, on the fringe of the Arctic Circle, is colder in January than the North Pole itself. It even boasts a record of 94° Fahrenheit below zero, but its mean temperature for January is about minus 60° Fahrenheit. During February Fort Conger, Grinnell Land, on Ellesmere Island, in the Arctic, claims the honor with a mean temperature for February of about minus 40° Fahrenheit.

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Norway Is Bleak Just Now—But "Christmas" Is Coming Soon

DISPATCHES telling of the popularity of Norway's winter sports, such as the famous ski Derby at Holmenkollen, and of the many Americans who now visit Scandinavia, emphasize the summer events of Norway which retain their distinctiveness and their quaintness because they attract much less attention.

The quick coming of spring is welcomed joyfully with a celebration that resembles our Christmas festivities.

Their "Christmas" in June

Nature seems to take a boisterous part in the occasion by throwing blankets of foliage across fields that were snow-covered only a few weeks before, and by bursting forth with gorgeous flowers in crannies where icicles held sway for the past six months.

All the excitement which marks our most generally observed holiday, Christmas, attends the Day of St. John, on June 24. While it bears a Christian name the holiday and its customs go back to pagan origin. In effect the day still is a festival of the sun. Green birch trees adorn every house and children carry evergreen branches through the streets. The analogy to Christmas breaks down, however, when younger folk crowd into boats on the fiords or hike to the mountain woods which, at twilight, are flecked with bonfires. All night long these beacons burn, as ghostly figures of the merry makers dance and sing around them.

Yearly more visitors are strapping on their knapsacks for walking trips through the rugged countryside of central Norway, where every rock-hewn road seems to lead to a fiord, and where the native customs defy the inroads of such driblets of travel as now sift through.

Font Let Down From Ceiling

The visitor goes to church, and the simple service seems stereotyped enough until a bit of statuary descends from the ceiling. The figure of an angel, supported by a rod, holds a bowl filled with water. The surprised visitor realizes this theatrical appurtenance is a baptismal font.

The simplicity and innocence of the country folk in the remote and isolated sections is betokened by their promiscuous bathing. And by "bathing" is meant just that; not the diversion of water splashing and sand sunning, but getting oneself clean. A log hut is the village bath house. A furnace of stones is heated and water poured over the red hot surface.

Into this steam steps a family—men, women, children, visiting relatives and neighbors. The bathers switch each other with birch twigs to induce more perspiration and gleefully throw buckets of cold water over each other when the heat becomes too intense. All of this is nothing of an orgy—but as prosaic as our daily bath. The rural Norwegian would see nothing immoral, nor funny, in an American hotel which inadvertently advertised "1,000 rooms, and bath."

Normandy, with its Norse stock, has the flavor of the North and its contributions to Paris are thrifty folk and progressive, solid leaders. The Auvergne central highlands' stock is made the butt of Parisian jokes on slow-thinking people. Savoy is said to monopolize the supply of chimney-sweeps and hurdy-gurdies.

Gascony once kept the King's guards recruited. Twentieth century Paris, however, has no job for D'Artagnan and his swaggering swordsmen, but it has made good use of Foch and Joffre. The surplus Gascon stock today is said to find its way into politics, where the lyrics of Cyrano and the fine phrases of D'Artagnan are redistilled into fiery speeches poured into the Chamber of Deputies.

"Gascon" is believed to come indirectly from Basque, the name of that remnant Pyrenees tribe whose members still furnish a question mark for students of race origins. The "G" was once a "V" which, according to earlier pronunciation must have given "Wasconia." The Basques, who are said to resemble strangely the ancient Egyptians, with their broad shoulders, slim waists, wide foreheads and pointed chins, have left their mark on the Gascons. Blood of Romans, Visigoths and Iberians also flows in Gascon veins, making them predominantly a Mediterranean people in contrast to natives of northern France who spring from Normans, Gauls and Franks. Now and then in Auch or Tarbes one sees women and men thin-faced, with olive skin and intensely black hair and eyes, a fleeting memory of the Moorish invasion which reached high tide in Gascony.

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HOME INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH COAST REGION OF FRANCE

The roofs are a joy, simply thick rolls of straw laid close by the farmer and cemented together by Nature in a few months with moss and flowers.

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The Aleutians: Stepping-stones Between West and East

UNITED STATES Army flyers, when they winged their way westward above the thousand-mile arc of the Aleutian Islands, that stretch off like giants' stepping-stones between Alaska and Asia, back-tracked in a most dramatic way one important historic migration and perhaps other equally important prehistoric movements.

If the island dwellers of 179 years ago could see the airplanes whirring along in the path of the sun, they would no doubt be even more impressed than they then were by the bearded Russians who came in crude boats from Kamchatka.

Path for Russian Adventurers

The Aleutians served as a path for Russian adventurers who had made their way across Siberia to the Pacific and were in search of new fur worlds to conquer. When survivors returned to Kamchatka from Bering's voyage which discovered Alaska, a horde of them hastily threw little boats together and swooped down on the Aleutians, exploiting, enslaving and killing the natives in a mad search for furs. With these white men came the diseases of civilization, and before many decades the 30,000 natives who, in 1745, lived contentedly in the Aleutians, had been reduced to few more than a thousand miserable creatures continually harassed by their masters. When, in the early nineteenth century, Russia established a sort of colonial government in the islands and on the Alaskan mainland, and introduced Christian missionaries, the natives fared somewhat better; but the Aleutian Islands have never recovered from the early days of exploitation and most of them are now uninhabited.

It was because they were opened up from the east that the islands are known as the Aleutians. The name is derived from that of a Kamchatkan Cape.

Although the Aleutians are as far north as central Canada, their climate is not severely cold. Rather they may be said to be always "chilly," damp and foggy. Fog is anything but an asset to the flyer; but the Aleutian fog has the good point, at least, of being less dense than the fog of more southern lands.

Like Islands Off Scotland

The islands are of volcanic origin and for the most part very rough. They are treeless, save for a few scrubby willows along water courses. Dense growths of grass and moss cover the hills and mountains and the small patches of lowland. The islands can be rather closely compared to the islands off the coast of northern Scotland and to Iceland; and, like those regions, could produce hay and support cattle. The few Aleuts who live on some of the isles now, however, maintain themselves entirely by fishing, hunting and trapping. Sea otters, the fur of which is very valuable, frequented the islands in great numbers when they were discovered, but greedy methods of fur collection have almost exterminated these animals. On some of the islands are blue fox farms.

Alighting on the Aleutian Islands with planes fitted with wheels is difficult. But nearly all of the islands are deeply indented and provide every few miles little sheltered coves, land-locked harbors or lakes on which pontoon-fitted planes can come to rest in an emergency.

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"Row Over and See Us"

In a Vermont village each family once had its horse and buggy, a vehicle now supplanted by the automobile. In a Norway hamlet a boat is the principal family conveyance in summer. There fishing takes the place of farming and the houses are strung around a bend of a fiord instead of along a rambling main street. The villager rows to church, and rows to the store, and rows to pay his evening calls.

Grazing herds of goats is the principal land industry of Norway's hilly north country and these flocks give rise to the picturesque goat-girl. The mountain pastures usually are far removed from the villages and each spring sees the young farm women driving their herds up the mountain paths to some lofty but sheltered valley among the glistening, snow-capped peaks. There they remain all summer long, camping in wooden huts, visited occasionally by their men folk to carry away butter and cheese.

These mountain pastures are known as saeters, a word known to music lovers of many lands because of Ole Bull's song "The Saeter-Maiden's Sunday" in which he expresses the lonesomeness of the girl goat-tenders for their families.

Goat cheese, a delicatessen commodity in the United States, is a principal article of Norwegian diet. It has the rich, brown color and something of the flavor of peanut butter. It is not eaten on crackers as a supplementary course but, sliced and laid on large cross-sections of brown bread, is a staple of the meal.

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CODFISH-DRYING RACKS AT HAMMERFEST, NORWAY

Fishing is no mere sport in Norway, it is an industry as essential as farming or stock raising in the United States. There is no sunset in Hammerfest from May 13 to July 29. This, therefore, is the busiest season of the year, when fishing craft set out for fisheries as far away as Spitsbergen and the Kara Sea beyond Novaya Zemlya. The city's chief export trade is in cod-liver oil, salted fish, reindeer and fox skins, and eiderdown.

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Natal May Be Britain's "Land of Cotton"

ANOTHER of the many efforts to augment the world's cotton production, in which the United States so long has held supremacy, may be made in a new quarter—Britain's South African province of Natal. There the construction of a new railroad will open up a quarter of a million fertile acres of what British experts consider as good cotton land as is to be found in America.

Dwellers in the Western Hemisphere hear about as much of Natal nowadays as Europeans do of, say, Arkansas or Alabama. This is not because any of the three regions are unimportant, but because they are merged in a greater whole that attracts all the attention at a distance. Natal is now one of the divisions in Africa's "United States," the Union of South Africa. But like our own Texas it started out as a colony of another power and later had an independent existence of its own as a republic. Settlers from Holland first placed it in the fold of European colonies and later organized it as an independent country. Great Britain took it over in 1842 and merged it into the Union of South Africa when that federation was formed in 1910.

Climate of Our Gulf States

Natal lies just around Africa's corner, only a little way beyond the Cape of Good Hope, by turning which Vasco da Gama, in 1497, found the all-important water route to the East. Natal fronts, therefore, on the southern part of the Indian Ocean. It extends roughly between south latitudes 27 and 32, and has a position corresponding in the Northern Hemisphere to that of northern Florida and the southern and central portions of the other Gulf States. In the matter of location, then, it can be seen that Natal should have an excellent chance to become South Africa's "Dixie."

In area Natal is some 5,000 square miles greater than South Carolina. As in that and other of our South Atlantic States, the coastal belt of Natal is relatively low and warm with a sub-tropical climate. It is in this zone that Natal's potential cotton lands are situated. There, too, are a considerable sugar industry and large tea plantations. Back about 30 miles from the coast the midland belt begins. This zone is higher and cooler as is the back country of the American Gulf States and constitutes a "corn belt." Still farther from the coast are the uplands of Natal, where higher altitude and lower temperature combine to create conditions like those of the plains of Texas and Oklahoma. And, as in the uplands of those States, stock-raising and cereal production are the dominant industries.

Natives Slaughtered Each Other

As regards its inhabitants Natal has had a tragic history. Alien tribes from the north swarmed into the country a hundred or so years ago and slaughtered great numbers of the former black natives. It became the war field of the Zulus. Many early Boer settlers were massacred by those fierce blacks early in the 19th century. After seemingly unending wars among the blacks the land was almost vacant when the British took it over in 1842. The natives have not been on the warpath since they were crushed in the Zulu War of 1879.

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Fine Harbor Half Way to Asia

Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, was the first island stopping place on the flyers' schedule. This deep, land-locked harbor is one of the finest in the north and has played an important part as a way station for ships during the gold rushes to the Yukon and to Nome. It is connected with the rest of the world by a radio station. Dutch Harbor is on the shortest route from Seattle to Tokyo, and with the establishment of coaling stations may conceivably become such a Pacific way station for the northern route as Honolulu is for the southern.

Atka is approximately the half-way house of the Aleutian chain and on it is the last settlement but one west of the mainland. Nazan Bay, which gives an excellent harbor to Atka, is often clear of fog when it hangs heavily outside. There is a government school in the little village on the inner harbor but no post office, and the only connection with Dutch Harbor is through occasional small trading schooners.

Westernmost Bit of America

After Atka is passed the islands for 500 miles westward are uninhabited. Then comes Attu, the last of the Aleutians, the westernmost bit of land at all connected with the American continent over which the Stars and Stripes wave. This little outpost of America is beyond the 180th degree of longitude and so is technically in the Eastern Hemisphere. The International Date Line has been bulged out around it, however, so that all the Aleutians are included in the same time system.

Attu is much farther west than Hawaii; it is, in fact, in the same longitude as New Zealand. And in the summer the sun is just setting from Attu when it is rising in Maine. It is 2,700 miles from Attu to the coast of Washington State, the nearest point in the United States proper. It is almost exactly the same distance from the coast of Washington to Eastport, Maine.

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THE VILLAGE OF UNALASKA IN THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

The Russian church is seen at the right—a reminder of the days when Alaska was a possession of the Tsars.

Natal has a population of about 140,000 whites and approximately ten times as many negroes and East Indians. The later are greatly in the minority but are an important factor economically, since most of the market gardening and much of the small shopkeeping is in their hands.

Durban Like Savannah, Georgia

Durban, the chief port of Natal, looking off to the east over a warm, sun-bathed ocean, is close to the corresponding latitude of Jacksonville, Florida, Savannah, Georgia, and New Orleans. In recent years a sandbar across its bay has been pierced, giving the city a large, well-protected harbor. It has a population nearly twice that of Savannah. In spots it has much of the flavor of the East with a Mohammedan mosque, coolie-markets and Hindoo shops. Until a few years ago jinrikishas were common on the streets.

The capital of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, a town of about 40,000 inhabitants, is situated in the uplands some 50 miles inland from Durban. It preserves much of the old Dutch flavor given by its founding Boers. It has one of the most equable climates in South Africa and is a favorite health resort.

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MAKING WOODEN SHOES IN FRANCE